



## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant : Samuel M. Shaolian et al.  
App. No. : 10/642,399  
Filed : August 15, 2003  
For : ARTICULATING SPINAL  
FIXATION ROD AND SYSTEM  
Examiner : Unknown  
Group Art Unit : 3738

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March 16, 2004

(Date)

*Rabinder N. Narula*

Rabinder N. Narula, Reg. No. 53,371

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is form PTO-1449 listing 83 references. Copies of disclosed U.S. patents and/or publications are not included pursuant to PTO waiver of the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) for applications filed after June 30, 2003. Copies of other references, if listed, are enclosed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits, and presumably no fee is required in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). If a first Office Action on the merits was mailed before the mailing date of this Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 3-16-03

By: *Rabinder N. Narula*

Rabinder N. Narula

Registration No. 53,371

Attorney of Record

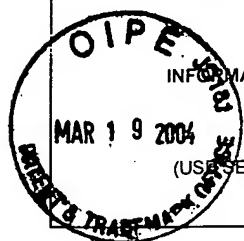
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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.  
VLINK.033AAPPLICATION NO.  
10/642,399INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
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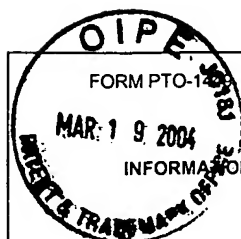
## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
	1	2,338,159	01/1944	Appleton			
	2	4,041,939	08/1977	Hall			
	3	4,289,123	09/15/81	Dunn			
	4	4,335,715	06/1982	Kirkley			
	5	4,648,388	03/10/87	Steffee			
	6	4,722,331	02/1988	Fox			
	7	4,743,260	05/1988	Burton			
	8	4,883,048	11/1989	Purnell et al.			
	9	4,887,595	12/18/89	Heinig et al.			
	10	4,920,958	05/1990	Walt et al.			
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	13	5,000,165	03/19/91	Watanabe			
	14	5,030,220	07/09/91	Howland			
	15	5,084,049	01/28/92	Asher et al.			
	16	5,112,337	05/1992	Paulos et al.			
	17	5,163,940	11/1992	Bourque			
	18	5,171,279	12/1992	Mathews			
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	27	5,474,551	12/12/95	Finn et al.			

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: INITIAL IF CITATION CONSIDERED, WHETHER OR NOT CITATION IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH MPEP 609; DRAW LINE THROUGH CITATION IF NOT IN CONFORMANCE AND NOT CONSIDERED, INCLUDE COPY OF THIS FORM WITH NEXT COMMUNICATION TO APPLICANT.



FORM PTO-14

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	28	5,486,174	01/1996	Fournet-Fayard et al.			
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	39	5,658,286	08/1997	Sava			
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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

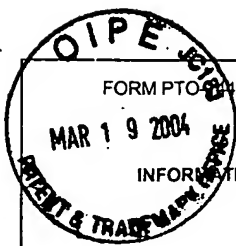
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 <p>FORM PTO-1029</p> <p>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p>(USE SEVERAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)</p>	ATTY. DOCKET NO. VLINK.033A	APPLICATION NO. 10/642,399
	APPLICANT Samuel M. Shaoian et al.	
	FILING DATE August 15, 2003	GROUP 3738

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 <p>FORM PTO-9149 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p>(USE SEVERAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)</p>	ATTY. DOCKET NO. VLINK.033A	APPLICATION NO. 10/642,399
	APPLICANT Samuel M. Shaolian et al.	
	FILING DATE August 15, 2003	GROUP 3738

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	78	197 26 754 A 1	02/04/99	DE				
	79	WO 97/30666	08/28/97	PCT				
	80	WO 97/38639	10/23/97	PCT				
	81	WO 99/09902	03/04/99	PCT				
	82	WO 99/15097	04/01/99	PCT				

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)	
	83	Muller et al., "A Keyhole Approach for Endoscopically Assisted Pedicle Screw Fixation in Lumbar Spine Instability". Neurosurgery, Vol. 47, No. 1, July 2000, pages 85-96.

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